



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 16, 2005

### **H.R. 68** **NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Financial Services  
on April 27, 2005*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 68 would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce a \$50 gold coin and a \$1 silver coin in calendar year 2008 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The legislation would specify a surcharge on the sales price of \$50 for the gold coin and \$10 for the silver coin and would designate the NASA Family Assistance Fund, a nonprofit entity, that provides financial assistance to families of deceased NASA personnel, as the recipient of the income from those surcharges. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 68 would have no significant net impact on direct spending over the 2005-2015 period. Enacting this bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 68 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **MAJOR PROVISIONS**

H.R. 68 would commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory by directing the Mint to produce a \$50 gold coin with an image of the Sun and nine \$1 silver coins representing all the planets in our solar system. This program would be one of the largest and most complex commemorative coin programs ever managed by the Mint.

The legislation would authorize the Mint to produce 50,000 of the \$50 gold coins and 3.6 million \$1 silver coins in calendar year 2008. The gold and silver coins would have distinctive tactile and visual features with realistic and scientifically accurate descriptions of the planets and the accomplishments of NASA and JPL. In addition, each federal agency and

U.S. instrumentality that has in its possession any craft or part of craft that flew into space would be directed to provide the Mint with any gold, silver, copper, or any other precious metals that may be used in the production of the commemorative coins.

## ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 68 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING</b>						
Receipt of Coin Surcharges						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	-23	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	-23	0	0
Spending of Coin Surcharges						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	23	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	23	0
Total Changes						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	-23	23	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	-23	23	0

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 68 could raise as much as \$38.5 million in surcharges if the Mint sells the maximum number of authorized coins. However, recent commemorative coin sales suggest that receipts would be about \$23 million. Under current law, the Mint must ensure that it does not lose money producing commemorative coins before transferring any surcharges to a recipient organization. In addition, the recipient organization is responsible to match all coin surcharges with funds raised from the private sector within two years, or the surcharge amounts are deposited with the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

CBO expects that those receipts from such surcharges would be transferred to the NASA Family Assistance Fund in fiscal year 2009. Thus, we estimate that the act would reduce direct spending by \$23 million in 2008 and would increase direct spending by \$23 million in 2009. Excluding surcharges, CBO expects that the Mint would retain and spend any

additional net proceeds generated from such sales to fund other commercial activities and would have a negligible net budgetary impact over time.

In addition, CBO expects that the Mint would use gold obtained from the reserves held at the Treasury to produce the gold coin. Because the budget treats the sale of gold as a means of financing governmental operations—that is, the Treasury’s receipts from such sales do not affect the size of the deficit—CBO has not included such receipts in this estimate. CBO estimates that H.R. 68 would provide the federal government with about \$2 million in additional cash (in exchange for gold) for financing the federal deficit in fiscal year 2008.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 68 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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